

CLAS 280A – 01

Dr. Jeffrey Becker

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Office Hours: M 15:30-16:30; T/R 13:30-15:00 or
by appointment

Art in the Ancient Greek World



Tuesday and Thursday 11:40-13:05 / Engineering Building R15

Course Description

This course explores the art, archaeology, and culture of the Greek world from the prehistory to the Roman period. The course focuses on architecture, sculpture, painted pottery, and wall painting as its main object classes and situates artistic and stylistic developments within their social, political, and historical context. We will consider issues of style, regional developments, technique and craftsmanship, trade and economy, and art forms in various contexts. Although focused on art and archaeology, the course will also address key cultural topics including the household, funerary culture, gender, ritual, and economy. Among key sites to be studied are Knossos, Mycenae, Athens, Corinth, Vergina, Delphi, Poseidonia/Paestum, Cyrene, and Olympia.

Prerequisites: None. No prior background in Classics, archaeology, or art history is required.

Note: The FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE will be available on September 30 at BU Brain.

Required textbooks

- Neer, Richard T. *Greek Art and Archaeology: A New History, c. 2500-c. 150 BCE* 1st Edition (Thames & Hudson, 2011). ISBN-13: 978-0500288771.
- Boardman, John. *The History of Greek Vases* (Thames & Hudson, 2006). ISBN-13: 978-0500285930.

Course Objectives

This course fulfills the following General Education requirements:

- A - Aesthetics courses enhance students' understanding of the creative process and the role of imagination in it. Students study or practice artistic expression and production in such fields as art, art history, cinema, creative writing, dance, graphic design, music and theater.
- W – Harpur College writing perspective.

In addition to fulfilling these requirements, students will be expected to demonstrate a number of skills specific to courses in Classics, Art history, and archaeology. These include:

- Learning to critically analyze and contextualize visual and material evidence.
- Identify and explore connections between the material and historical records

- Develop a better understanding and appreciation of the formal, historical, aesthetic, and socio-cultural context of the material.

Assignments and Evaluation

This course is a 4-credit course. This means that in addition to the scheduled meeting times, students should expect to spend at least 9.5 hours on course-related work outside of class each week during the semester. This includes the time spent completing assigned readings, preparing written assignments, and performing other tasks related to the course.

1. Attendance and participation – regular attendance and participation. [5%]
2. Image quizzes (4) – these short, in-class quizzes will involve identification and analysis of images presented during lectures as well as in the assigned readings. [15%]
3. Midterm Examination – the midterm examination will cover all material presented in the course (including assigned readings) from the first meeting through October 11, 2016. [25%]
4. Final Examination – the final examination will be administered during the final exam period and will cover all material presented in the course (including assigned readings) from the midterm until the end of the course. [25%]
5. Site / monument report (4 pages) – this assignment will ask you to write a descriptive and contextualized essay in which you discuss an assigned archaeological site and/or monument. Please upload a digital copy to Blackboard and submit a hard copy in class. [10%]
6. Object analysis (4 pages) – this assignment will ask you to write a stylistic and contextual analysis of an assigned Greek vase drawn from the *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum* (CVA). Please upload a digital copy to Blackboard and submit a hard copy in class. [10%]
7. Cultural heritage position essay (2 pages) – this assignment will ask you to read critically regarding issues of cultural heritage preservation and management and then form an opinion that you will argue in a position paper supported by documents. The completed assignment is due **November 30, 2016, by 11:59 PM via Blackboard**. Bring a hard copy of your position paper to class on December 1 for reference during our class discussion / debate. [10%]

The following grading scale will be applied A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70), D (69-60), F (59-).

Quizzes

The four quizzes given in the course will focus on the identification of key sites, objects, and monuments studied and discussed in the course. Image sets will be made available via Artstor. The images in the main texts (Neer and Boardman) should also be consulted and studied. Strategies for learning images will be discussed in class.

Examinations

The two examinations will focus on analysis and contextualization of the material under consideration. These exercises will move beyond mere identification in order to engage more deeply in comparative analysis and contextualization of ancient Greek material culture. Makeup quizzes and exams in the case of excused absence from an exam (e.g. university-sanctioned or medical absence) will be arranged with the instructor provided there is ample, prior notification (with the exception of medical emergencies). Makeups for unexcused absences will not be offered.

Attendance and Syllabus

Attendance is required in this course. Students are responsible for being familiar with the content of the syllabus and for any changes to it that may be announced.

Office Hours and Email

The instructor's email, office location, and office hours appear on the top of this syllabus. It is best, whenever possible, to make an appointment for consultation.

Artstor Digital Library

This course will make use of the Artstor Digital Library, a resource available to you via Binghamton University Libraries. This resource, available under 'Databases', will provide you access to image sets that correspond to our work in class. Create a login for yourself and find our course under 'Institutional folders'. You may browse images within the Artstor viewer (online) or download image sets to a local drive. Please observe the appropriate copyright restrictions for reuse of images.

Classroom Decorum and Policies

- Please be respectful of your classmates and the instructor during class meetings.
- **Electronic devices:** laptops and tablet computers are allowed in class only for the purpose of taking notes and viewing assigned reading (as needed). They may not be used for any other purposes. Do not bring computers or tablets on exam days. Please silence and stow all smartphones and cell phones before class begins. Do not send text messages, check social media, hunt Pokémon or surf the internet during class. No exceptions.
- Be prepared for each class. Be curious, ask questions, make connections.
- Need help? Reach out to the instructor and ask. Small fires are much easier to extinguish than large conflagrations.

Academic Honesty

The instructor expects all students to adhere to the strict standards of academic conduct and honesty in this course. As members of the Binghamton University community, students and faculty are charged with upholding high standards of honesty, fairness, and mutual respect in all academic matters. Examples of misconduct include plagiarism, copying, misrepresenting the work of others as one's own or assisting someone in doing so, using unauthorized books or notes in completing a closed-book test, falsifying attendance, lying, and stealing. Students in this course are expected to observe the University's Student Academic Honesty Code and should make sure they become familiar with its provisions. Violations of the code, for example, cheating on exams, will be prosecuted as specified in the Code. All written work to be turned in for a grade must be pledged with an affirmation of your adherence to the Student Academic Honesty Code

Student Support

If you are experiencing undue personal or academic stress at any time during the semester or need to talk with someone about a personal problem or situation, I encourage you to seek support as soon as possible. I am available to talk with you about stresses related to your work in my class. Additionally, I can assist you in reaching out to any one of a wide range of campus resources, including:

1. Dean of Students Office: 607-777-2804
2. Decker Student Health Services Center: 607-777-2221
3. University Police: On campus emergency, 911
4. University Counseling Center: 607-777-2772
5. Interpersonal Violence Prevention: 607-777-3062
6. Harpur Advising: 607-777-6305
7. Office of International Student & Scholar Services: 607-777-2510

Disability-related Equal Access Accommodations

Students needing accommodations to ensure their equitable access and participation in this course should notify the instructor with an Academic Accommodation Authorization from Binghamton University's Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office as soon as they're aware of their need for such arrangements. Please visit the SSD website (www.binghamton.edu/ssd) for more detailed information. The office is located in University Union, 119. Please see the instructor during office hours or make an appointment to discuss any accommodations.

Binghamton University Writing Center

- Students are encouraged to make use of the writing center for written assignments. Academic writing is a multi-step process and successful writers treat it as such.
- Website: <https://www.binghamton.edu/writing/writing-center/>
- Telephone: 607-777-6725
- Location: Library North 2411 (Around the corner from the Harpur College Dean's Office)
- Hours: Monday-Thursday 10-4:00, Friday 10-3:15
- Make an appointment online. **n.b.** Tutoring will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2016. The online schedule will be available Labor Day weekend.

Intellectual Property

The content of this course and its lectures are the property of the instructor and Binghamton University - SUNY. You may not reproduce or re-distribute any courses materials, including lectures, slide-sets or handouts – via any medium without the express permission of the instructor. This includes, but is not limited to, analog or digital recording of audio and/or video.

Copyright Notice

Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection under Title 17 of the United States Code. Under certain Fair Use circumstances specified by law, copies may be made for private study, scholarship, or research. Electronic copies should not be shared with unauthorized users. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

Change Notice

All information in this syllabus is subject to change at any time; this is especially true during the first weeks of the semester. The instructor will announce schedule changes in class and via Blackboard. Students are responsible for changes to the schedule as they arise.

COURSE SCHEDULE

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(S)	ASSIGNED READING(S)
August 25	Introduction; Methods, objectives, chronology, style	Neer introduction and chronological overview
August 30	Bronze Age – Cyprus, Cyclades Sculpture	Neer chapter 1
September 1	Bronze Age Crete and Minoan art and architecture	Neer chapter 1 (cont'd)

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(s)	ASSIGNED READING(s)
		[JSTOR] Chapin, A. P. 2004. "Power, privilege, and landscape in Minoan art." <i>Hesperia Supplements</i> 33 (XAPIΣ: Essays in Honor of Sara A. Immerwahr):47-64.
September 6	Mycenaean art and architecture	Neer chapter 2 [Heilbrunn Timeline] <u>Mycenaean civilization</u> (Metropolitan Museum of Art)
September 8	Iron Age Greece; Geometric Greece	[Blackboard] Thomas, Carol G. "Lefkandi: New Heroes of the Ninth Century." In <i>Citadel to city-state: the transformation of Greece, 1200-700 B.C.E.</i> pp. 85-114.
September 13	Geometric Greece ☞ Quiz I	Neer chapter 3 [Heilbrunn Timeline] <u>Death, Burial, and the Afterlife in Ancient Greece</u> (Metropolitan Museum of Art)
September 15	Orientalizing I – Greek art and the wider world	Neer chapter 4
September 20	Orientalizing II	[JSTOR] Markoe, Glenn. 1996. "The Emergence of Orientalizing in Greek Art: Some Observations on the Interchange between Greeks and Phoenicians in the Eighth and Seventh Centuries B. C." <i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> 30:47-67.
September 22	Archaic architecture I	Neer chapter 5
September 27	Archaic architecture II ☞ Site / monument report due	[JSTOR] Marconi, C. 2004. "Kosmos: The Imagery of the Archaic Greek Temple." <i>RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics</i> 45:211-24.
September 29	Early Archaic sculpture ☞ Quiz II	Neer chapter 6
October 4	No class	
October 6	Late Archaic art	Neer chapter 8
October 11	Panhellenic sanctuaries	Neer chapter 7
October 13	Midterm examination	
October 18	Early Classical art	Neer chapter 9
October 20	Greek vase painting	Boardman pp. 269-89; 11-78
October 25	Greek vase painting	Boardman pp. 79-127
October 27	Greek vase painting	Boardman chapter 5
November 1	Greek vase painting ☞ Quiz III	Boardman chapter 6
November 3	Athens I	Neer chapter 11
November 8	Athens II	[Blackboard] Thompson, Dorothy B. 1971. <i>The Athenian Agora: an ancient shopping center.</i> ASCSA.

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(S)	ASSIGNED READING(S)
		Browse website of Athenian Agora Excavations
November 10	High Classical art and architecture	Neer chapter 12
November 15	Late Classical art and architecture ☞ CVA essay due	Neer chapter 13
November 17	Greek art beyond Greece	Neer chapter 10
November 22	Hellenistic art and architecture I	Neer chapter 14
November 24	No class	
November 29	Hellenistic art and architecture II ☞ Quiz IV	[Blackboard] Pollitt, J. J. 1986. "Royal iconography." In <i>Art in the Hellenistic Age</i> . Cambridge University Press. Pp. 19-46.
December 1	Discussion – The Elgin Marbles their legacy (and fraught) future ☞ Cultural heritage position essay due on 11/30/16 by 11:59 PM	[JSTOR] Hamilakis, Y. 1999. "Stories from Exile: Fragments from the Cultural Biography of the Parthenon (or 'Elgin') Marbles." <i>World Archaeology</i> 31.1:303-20. [Blackboard] Appiah, K. A. 2006. "Whose culture is it anyway?" <i>New York Review of Books</i> .
December 6	<u>Final class meeting</u> Greek art and its legacy: the Roman world and beyond	[JSTOR] Pollitt, J. J. 1978. "The Impact of Greek Art on Rome." <i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i> 108:155-74.
December 12-16	Final examinations	